BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTH.

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IN RE:

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

APPLICATION OF MEMPHIS NETWORX, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE INTRASTATE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES AND JOINT PETITION OF MEMPHIS LIGHT GAS & WATER DIVISION, A DIVISION OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE ("MLGW") AND A&L NETWORKS-TENNESSEE, LLC ("A&L") FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN MLGW AND A&L REGARDING JOINT OWNERSHIP OF MEMPHIS NETWORX, LLC.

Docket No. 99-00909

OBJECTION TO DOCUMENT PRODUCTION

Applicant Memphis Networx, LLC ("Applicant") and Joint Petitioners Memphis Light, Gas & Water ("MLGW") and Memphis Broadband, LLC (collectively "Joint Petitioners") object to the March 19 request for production of documents prepared by Cambridge Strategic Management Group and would summarize the grounds for the objection as follows:

1. The request is untimely under the pre-hearing order inasmuch as a deadline was set in the pre-hearing order for discovery including written requests for production of documents. (Pre-hearing order of February 9.) That deadline has passed. Furthermore, documents listed in a subpoena duces tecum attached to the deposition notice were produced. This request was not contained in the subpoena list, nor the written requests. Therefore, the request is untimely.

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- 2. The request is excessive inasmuch as the maximum allowable written production requests have already been made under TRA Rule 1220-1-2-11(5)(a). No motion to serve additional requests was filed and no showing of good cause was made under that TRA rule.
- 3. The Cambridge documents are not a "business plan" as described in the Intervenors written request filed March 20 and therefore this request was not contained in Requests 5 or 21 cited by the Intervenors. The documents requested are not a "business plan" (Request 5) nor are they documents showing "total payment" to consultants (Request 21). This is a new request beyond the deadline and beyond the maximum limit.
- 4. This request is beyond the scope of this proceeding (see February 9, 2001, Pre-Hearing Order) and therefore not calculated to lead to the production of admissible evidence (T.R.C.P. Rule 26.02 (1). The TRA is not called upon in its review of certificate applications to go beyond high level plans (e.g., wholesale service) or examine contemporaneous strategic decision-making documents of applicants and it should not permit the mandatory production to Intervenors of such information. It is beyond this proceeding.
- 5. This request is beyond the scope of the issues identified by the TRA in this proceeding and therefore not calculated to lead to the production of admissible evidence. (see TRA Order of June 29, 2000).
- 6. This material is extremely competitively-sensitive information and its production even under the protective order would unnecessarily place at risk a private business enterprise because release of the information, whether inadvertent, negligent or otherwise, could cause substantial financial damage to investors and a devastating blow to the competitive marketplace. The risk is too great and it outweighs any benefit of production.

7. Production of such commercially and competitively-sensitive documents would be anti-competitive and contrary to the Tennessee legislatively-established policy to promote

competition.

8. Requiring private company applicants to make such productions as a requirement

to enter the market would be a barrier to entry not consistent with federal law.

9. The requesting party has not carried the burden of showing specific and

compelling reasons why production should be made of documents so sensitive.

10. Such competitively-sensitive production has not been required of other applicants

for certificates, nor should it be required of this applicant.

11. The documents requested are interim documents, subject to revision and entitled to

protection as a part of the evolving decision process of a private company.

12. Applicants and Joint Petitioners have been extremely forthcoming and have

produced thousands and thousands of pages. It is not unreasonable to conclude that there is

something that a private Tennessee company receives from its consultants that will remain

private, confidential and not disclosed at the mere request of its competitors.

Therefore, Applicant and Joint Petitioners ask that the objection to production be sustained

and the request for production be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

John Knox Walkup

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And

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, John Knox Walkup, hereby certify that on this 212th day of March, 2001,

a true and correct copy of the foregoing was delivered by hand delivery, facsimile or U.S. Mail postage prepaid to the Counsel of Record listed below.

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